

Message Text

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15

ACTION IO-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 833

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG:ESCAP

SUBJECT: RED:ESCAP:COMPLICATIONS REGARDING 32ND SESSION, JAKARTA

REF: BANGKOK 18835, NOV 1974 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMAAY: LACK OF FACILITIES AND INVITATION TO ISRAEL MAY
MEAN JAKARTA WILL LOSE 32ND SESSION TO BANGKOK.

2. DURING RECENT ESCAP AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MTG.,
FIRST SESSION, JAKARTA, ESCAP SECRETARIAT DISCOVERED TO ITS DIS-
MAY INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT HAD DONE ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO PREPARE
JAKARTA CONVENTION HALL FOR SCHEDULED ESCAP 32ND SESSION NEXT
MARCH. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MARAMIS, WHILE ATTENDING STATISTICAL
COMMITTEE MTG. LAST NOVEMBER (REFTEL) HAD THEN OBTAINED PROMISE
OF PRESIDENT SUHARTO THAT TEMPORARY ANNEX WOULD BE BUILT NEAR
CONVENTION CENTER TO HOUSE TWO EXTRA COMMITTEE ROOMS AND ADDITIONAL
OFFICE SPACE FOR SECRETARIAT. NOTHING, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN BUILT SO
FAR AND NOTHING APPEARS PLANNED.

3. MARAMIS EXPECTS TO DISCUSS MATTER FURTHER WITH FOREIGN MINISTER
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MALIK DURING PAPUA NEW GUINEA INDEPENDENCE CEREMONIES AT PORT

MORESBY SEP 15TH, TO DETERMINE WHETHER 32ND SESSION WILL BE HELD JAKARTA OR BANGKOK.

4. RELIABLE SECRETARIAT SOURCE INDICATES ISRAELI ATTENDANCE MAY BE COMPLICATING FACTOR IN HOSTING ESCAP SESSION IN JAKARTA. ARAB NATIONS WERE AMONG FIRST TO RECOGNIZE INDONESIAN INDEPENDENCE AND INDONESIAN ACCORDINGLY DOES NOT WISH ESCAP TO INVITE ISRAEL TO ITS 32ND SESSION IF HELD IN JAKARTA. SECRETARIAT HAS ALREADY INFORMED INDONESIA THAT ISRAEL CANNOT BE BARRED FROM ATTENDING PLENARY SESSION IN JAKARTA. ESCAP SECRETARIAT SUSPECTS INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT WAS ALREADY AWARE THIS WOULD HAPPEN AND HAD, THEREFORE, NOT PLANNED TO BUILD TEMPORARY ANNEX REQUIRED.

5. SOURCE ALSO REVEALED ISRAELI REPRESENTATIVES WERE ASKED UNOFFICIALLY BY MARAMIS NOT TO ATTEND RECENT AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING AND THEY COMPLIED BUT INSISTED, AS MATTER OF PRINCIPLE, THAT THEY MUST ATTEND PLENARY IF HELD IN JAKARTA.

6. ESCAP SECRETARIAT NOW SCOUTING BANGKOK HOTELS FOR FACILITIES TO HOLD PLENARY SESSION AND HAVE FOUND THREE POSSIBLE SITES: INDRA, DUSIT THANI AND NARAI HOTELS.

7. COMMENT: COMPLICATIONS DESCRIBED ABOVE INCREASE PROBABILITY THAT BANGKOK RATHER THAN JAKARTA WILL BE SITE FOR 32ND SESSION AFTER ALL. BANGKOK HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN SELECTED LAST YEAR. WHITEHOUSE

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